I. Background Information

A. Title of Program: Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate

B. Department(s)/Program(s): English

C. Administrative Home: English

D. Division: X Undergraduate  □ Graduate  (Requires approval by APC*)  (Requires approval by GC**)

E. Effective Year and Term for Implementation of Action: ____

II. Unit Approvals

A. Department Chair(s)/Program Director(s)  Signatures  Date

B. Dean of College

C. Chair, Academic Policies Committee

D. Chair, Graduate Council

* APC = Academic Policies Committee
** GC = Graduate Council
III. Certificate program proposals should originate at the department/program level; all affected departments/programs must endorse proposals. Each proposal will include the following:

A. Context for the certificate program (any predecessor programs, relationship to existing programs, alignment with university mission);

The certificate program contains one course (ENGL 221) that is required of all English majors. All other courses in the certificate count towards a Language Studies minor (renamed to Interdisciplinary Linguistics minor effective fall 2016) and many count toward an English Linguistics major; three or more courses in the certificate count towards the Spanish Linguistics major, TESOL minor, and TEFL minor/certificate.

The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate contributes to the Select Mission of the University through its focus on liberal arts education, developing critical thinking and creative thinking skills, and interdisciplinary coursework preparing students to thrive in a diverse, global society.

B. Rationale explaining need for the program (e.g., target audience(s), evidence of long-term need, anticipated enrollment);

The primary audience of this certificate is UWEC students interested in a focused program of study in linguistics either as a complement to another program (e.g., Computer Science, Psychology, English, French, German, Spanish, Geography, Philosophy, Elementary or Secondary Education) or as a springboard to graduate study in linguistics or related areas. UWEC currently offers several major and minor programs that combine linguistics with study in other disciplines: the English Linguistics major combines linguistics with critical studies in literature, the Spanish Linguistics major combines linguistics with the study of the Spanish language, the Interdisciplinary Linguistics minor combines linguistics with courses that approach language from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, and the TESOL and TEFL minors combine linguistics with courses in education methods. The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate differs from these programs by offering an experience that is more tightly focused and requires fewer credits.

At the same time, it would be straightforward for students to move from the Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate to other programs that already have a linguistics component or to move to the Interdisciplinary Linguistic Certificate from other areas. Nearly all of the courses in the certificate program count towards a major in English Linguistics or a Language Studies minor. The required course in the certificate (ENGL 221) and several electives count towards a TESOL minor. Two or more courses in the certificate also count towards the TEFL minor, TEFL certificate, and the Spanish Linguistics major. A second audience for the certificate program therefore consists of prospective English, Spanish, and Education majors who are exploring linguistics. Students would have the option of completing the Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate or of moving into any of a number of related programs – English Linguistics, Spanish Linguistics, TESOL, TEFL, Elementary or Secondary Education or even other English emphases – without affecting time to degree.

Finally, the certificate would be unique in the UW System.
C. Statement of benefits to students, the department(s)/program(s), college(s), and university;

The proposed certificate program benefits the Department of English, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University by offering students a brief but focused program of interdisciplinary study in linguistics. As the Linguistics Society of America explains, "Modern linguists approach with a scientific perspective and methods what used to be thought of as a purely cultural academic discipline in the humanities... [Linguistics] overlaps each of the human sciences, including psychology, neurology, anthropology and sociology. Linguists conduct formal studies of sound structure, grammar and meaning; investigate the history of language families; and research language acquisition. And as other scientists, they formulate hypotheses, catalog observations, and work to support explanatory theories."

Because linguistics bridges the social sciences and the humanities, an interdisciplinary linguistics certificate is a natural complement to majors and minor programs in a variety of fields. It could appeal to English majors who want to combine an emphasis in rhetoric, literature, creative writing, or education with exploration of the structure of the English language; to Philosophy majors who are interested in the philosophy of language; to Anthropology minors and Geographers who are interested in the relationships between language and culture/society; to Computer Science majors interested in language recognition technology; to Education majors who are interested in linguistic structure and language acquisition; and to Psychology majors who are interested in language processing, among others. Furthermore, linguistics has a broad range of professional applications. Expertise in linguistics is valuable to software engineers working on speech recognition, speech synthesis, and natural language processing; to language teachers; and to translators and interpreters. An ability to think analytically about language is valued in the publishing industry and in the legal professions. Experience in the collection, organization, and analysis of data, integral to linguistics, is valued in a variety of industries and careers, including marketing, research and development, consulting, management, sales, and others. An interdisciplinary approach to the study of language helps prepare our students to work with diverse populations in a global society. While not in itself a professional certification, a linguistics certificate could increase the employability and career options of students majoring or minoring in Computer Science, English, Languages, TEFL, and TESOL, Elementary and Secondary Education, among others.

In addition, the College and University benefit by providing interested students the opportunity to pursue more deeply the Liberal Education learning goal of Knowledge of the Social Sciences and to realize the outcome associated with that goal, students will use knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to explain and evaluate human behavior and social institutions through rigorous investigation of one of the most fundamental human behaviors and social institutions – natural language.

D. Description of the academic component including:

i. Learning goals and outcomes for students;

The goal of the program is to enhance students’ abilities to reason about
language by providing opportunities to analyze the sounds, words, sentences and/or meanings of natural language; to describe variation and change in natural language; and to form and test hypotheses about language by collecting, organizing, and analyzing linguistic data. Students completing the certificate also fulfill the Liberal Education Learning Outcome Knowledge of Social Sciences and perhaps other LE outcomes depending on their elective choices.

ii. Specification of any program admission requirements, minimum GPA requirements for courses, GPA requirements for certificate completion above the university minimum, applicability of the S/U option;

There is no admission requirement other than good academic standing.

iii. Course array, including specification of new, required and elective courses. If electives are allowed within the certificate program, an explanation of the proposed electives in light of the need for program cohesion should be included.

The certificate comprises 12 credits. 3 of these credits are from one required core course: ENGL 221 Introductory English Linguistics

The remaining 9 credits are from these linguistics electives:
ANTH 315 Language, Culture and Society
CSD 262 Phonetics: Theory and Application
CSD 301 American Sign Language Semantics
CSD 302 American Sign Language Linguistics
ENGL 321 Topics in the Structure of English
ENGL 325 Topics in Language and Society
ENGL 421 Seminar in Linguistic Research
FLG 378 Second Language Acquisition Theory
FREN 325 Phonetics and Pronunciation
GERM 325 The German Sound System
GERM 413 Structure of German in Contrast
PHIL 322 Philosophy of Language
SPAN 325 Phonetics and Pronunciation
SPAN 326 Survey of the Spanish Language: History and Dialects
SPAN 360 Topics in Hispanic Linguistics
SPAN/LAS 418 Spanish Sociolinguistics in Latin America/USA
SPAN 492 Seminar in Hispanic Linguistics Research

The electives allow students to choose a more focused study of linguistics in a particular subfield of linguistics (e.g., phonology, semantics) or a particular area of interest (e.g., variation among Germanic languages).

Note: Students may not pursue the Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate and the English Linguistics Emphasis nor the Spanish Linguistics Emphasis as their first and second degree programs for purposes of graduation. Also, courses that count in the certificate may not be applied to the student's major.
E. Description of the administration, staffing, and budgeting for the program, including:

iv. Faculty/staff participating in the certificate program;

The following faculty and staff currently teach the courses in the certificate program:

- ENGL courses: Dr. Erica Benson and Dr. Lynsey Wolter
- CSD courses: Dr. Kay Hagedorn, Dr. Vicki Samelson, Kristin Scheibe
- ANTH 315: Dr. Ari Anand
- PHIL 322: Dr. Sean McAleer
- Languages Department courses: Dr. Jessica Miller, Dr. Joshua Brown, Dr. Martina Lindseth, Dr. Robert Strong, Dr. Marcela Depiante, Dr. Fabiola Varela-Garcia, Thomas Carlson, Dr. Emilia Oswalt

v. Proposed frequency of offering for courses included in the certificate program;

At least two sections of ENGL 221 and CSD 262 are offered every semester; ANTH 315; CSD 301, 302; ENGL 321, 325; FLG 378; FREN 325; GERM 325; SPAN 325 are offered at least once a year; all other courses are offered less than once a year.

vi. Proposed arrangements for ongoing advising for students in the certificate program;

Students in the Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate will be advised by the faculty who already advise in the Interdisciplinary Linguistics Minor: Erica Benson, English; Lynsey Wolter, English; Jessica Miller, Languages (French); Josh Brown, Languages (German); Robert Strong, Languages (Spanish), and Fabiola Varela-Garcia, Languages (Spanish).

vii. Anticipated need for student support services for students enrolled in the certificate program;

The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate draws on current resources, so no additional needs for student support services are anticipated.

viii. Identification of an administrative home for certificate programs involving more than one academic department/program;

The administrative unit for the Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate is the Department of English.

ix. Funding needs to initiate and maintain the certificate program, including source(s) of funding and any needed resource reallocation;

The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate draws on current resources, so no additional needs are currently anticipated.
x. Impact on existing courses and programs.

The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Certificate is designed to increase flexibility for students without introducing new courses. Therefore, we anticipate minimal impact on existing courses and programs.

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Additional Information

• For complete information, see Policy Statement on Credit-Bearing Certificate Programs at http://www.uwec.edu/CAS/faculty/infoandforms.htm.

• Submit the certificate proposal electronically to College of Arts and Sciences Office for review (cassidml@uwec.edu or nilsena@uwec.edu).

• Finalized proposals will be considered by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (CASC). The CASC will route the approved proposal to APC or GC as appropriate.